

FEBRUARY 2014

Hannibal Amateur Radio Club News

WØMTL — Hannibal Amateur Radio Club News — WØKEM



2014 HARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: DON VARY, KDØHHN -- V-PRES: ED TURNER, NØWNV
TREASURER: LARRY LAUER, WB2UFO
TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA
EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP

YEARLY HARC CLUB DINNER: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014

Fred has made reservations at Golden Corral for Feb 8, 2014, with the dinner starting at 6 PM.
 We will be in the front room as in the past. Everyone pays for their own dinner.

NOTE: There will be no scheduled meeting in February due to yearly dinner.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Wednesday – March 12, at 7:30 PM

Beth Haven Pleasant View
641 Euclid Avenue
Hannibal, Mo 63401

Enter at the main entrance, turn left to the elevator. Take the elevator to the second floor, and the club's meeting room is directly across the hallway. See map directions on HARC website.

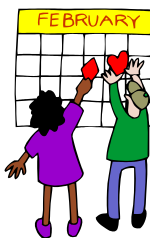
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MONDAY NIGHT WEEKLY NET CALL LIST – FEBRUARY 2014

3 WØPGL TONY
 10 WB2UFO LARRY
 17 KB9VIS BRIAN
 24 KØDFW HOWARD



FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2014

April 9th, July 9th, October 8th

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Pleasant View, 641 Euclid Avenue Hannibal, Mo 63401. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KB0WIL at kb0wil@arrl.net or 573-221-2429.

The 2014 test fee will be unchanged at \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.

HARC CLUB DUES:

HARC annual dues are due each January. The dues are very important and are needed to keep repeaters up and running, plus other expenses of the club. The yearly dues fee is \$20.00 per member, & \$5.00 for each additional family member. You can pay at club meetings, or send the money to HARC, P.O. Box 1522 Hannibal Mo, 63401. Thanks!!

HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HISTORY – OVER 76 YEARS OLD!

Cliff KØCA has a certificate that was sent to Carroll Waddell, operating as W9KEM, the old club call sign, for his assistance with the 1937 flood. The certificate was mounted on a piece of wood, and upon further examination, it was determined that the certificate was mailed to Carroll this way, as his address was written on the back and the 2, 15 cent stamps were still attached.

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Below is a photo of an ARRL Award Certificate presented to Carol Waddell, for operating W9KEM, the Hannibal ARC station, which provided emergency communications during the March, 1937 ice storm. Yes, in 1937, Missouri was in the nine (9) call district. The article gives details, including the call signs and names of some of the Hannibal participants. Interesting history about our club, and confirmation that the club is at least 76 years old! (Article from the March 1937 QST, with permission from ARRL)..

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notice from the F.C.C. about its order. Some we know got green tickets from Uncle Sam in this emergency. Transmitting to rag chew about "when the ban would be off" was in itself contrary to the order. Many hams, no doubt, could be benefited by some "flood education." The desire to help through transmitting participation is too often a fatal and dangerous thing. Just because someone has dug up a personal safety message for Louisville is no reason to go on the air with a "CQ URGENT." Messages of importance, those for official relief agencies, of public instead of individual import, have priority. Intelligent *listening* locates stations, places, nets, keeps general calls to zero or minimum, and enables the handling of secondary messages efficiently, responsive to the QRZ? or CQ of an emergency area station. Many such opportunities were afforded for clearing general relief traffic, between hourly and half hourly schedules of the spot frequency nets in Kentucky and Ohio. *Listening* is invariably profitable, and an essential before operating can be intelligent. There should be more listening, less transmitting unrelated to the actual flood area situation, in future emergencies. The *BARAgraph*, club paper, suggests to us the thought that during the important period *when wire circuits are out*, radio channel congestion is most to be avoided, and traffic moved through any remote stations where wire facilities exist. The time for special organizing and orderly functioning of remote secondary radio nets is of course after the partial reestablishment of wire facilities, in order to supplement these facilities by the handling of amateur radiograms to any and all points. The best way to assure that the public is served in emergency is to maintain functioning unimpaired the regulation traffic organization.

One man suggests that, besides authorized vigilantes, the only transmission permitted should be that of A.R.R.L., A.A.R.S., and Navy nets, except when these stations send directional calls and seek definite stations outside the flood area for their needs. There is little excuse for unauthorized or self-appointed vigilantes, excepting where these function in clearing definite flood-net-frequencies, responsive to the wishes or request of net stations, which of course is tantamount to authorization. The use of CQ, or CQ Flood Area, labelled a number of operators remote from the area as completely dumb as anything could. Every Handbook distributed for years hits the practice of CQing "flood area" as nothing but a QRM producer. Any intelligent individual knows that, as conditions and power supply permit, any station in the area will transmit to the outside specifically as his needs direct and that general calls and CQs are worse than wasted.

Unauthorized broadcasting, and modifying of broadcasts was a curse of the early flood days. There should be a penalty for starting rumors, as was done by improper unintelligent expansion or contraction (and subsequent repetition) of broadcast dispatches. To delete essential limiting words that qualify a message, to expand, exaggerate, or alter meanings, is all deserving of censure. Broadcasts should include their source; they should be repeated exactly, if at all, or not repeated; League transmissions through vigilantes extended authority to no other operators to make repeats.

The need, in future emergencies, is perhaps for more selective regulation. Authority to quell a station that starts up on a channel where relief communication is in progress, is more important than blanket silencing of stations. There may be a short period when stations with emergency power supply, even with one or two high-power watch dogs outside their area to protect their channel, will require blanket protection. But the tendency of blanket regulation, unless discriminatory to permit continued work of operators with definite traffic handling experience (as opposed to casual and incidental working) is to substitute inexperienced operators for regulars. A number of reliables took the order as a flat shut down, since they had no relief traffic; some newer men lost their heads and feverishly attempted a transmitting rôle, regardless of location. Regulation for emergency must not remain in force so long as to handicap the handling of the secondary load of personals. Traffic outlets and regular channels, on all except frequencies utilized by emergency nets, must be maintained. 'Phone and c.w. each has its place; 'phone, most sensitive to interference, may best be protected from casual rag chews by a general F.C.C. order as in our recent emergency, but selective policing protection

of particular circuits (by vigilantes stations) is practical for c.w. telegraph workers and by no means out of the question for 'phones.

The F.C.C. interpreted its order to permit the handling of any kind of relief or emergency traffic, personals or official. Of course priority considerations caused Kentucky and Ohio stations to refuse such until service to official relief agencies was established, and personal safety traffic even then was secondary. Because so many of the people in the hard-hit cities were refugees, deliveries of ingoing messages were well-nigh impossible, so ingoing traffic was discouraged. Relief problems had priority, and so there was not the volume of outgoing traffic that some anticipated. But many messages were handled and we know how thoroughly the recipients appreciated the service. Let us hope that some of the operators who handled their first traffic in such a time, will make a practice of continuing some traffic work, not only as a service, but to keep in trim for orderly, recorded, accurate and fast work at any time in the future.

The best emergency work is always by those who have cultivated right operating habits by preparation and practice under normal conditions. The desirability of having emergency power supplies, and equipment (such as exciters and receivers) ready to plug over to such supplies was again demonstrated. THE NEED FOR PREPAREDNESS is the essence of the whole lesson. It may take some little time to perfect our organization, but the stimulation of this emergency is already apparent in increased registrations in the League's Emergency Corps. In each community we want to see amateurs in a constant state of preparedness—registered in advance with A.R.R.L. and with those that will be served by amateur radio communication if and whenever emergencies arrive!

We have in mind the possible desirability of an A.R.R.L. coordinator, for emergency groups in each city and town. Under appointment by the S.C.M., this official would have responsible charge of records of local amateurs and amateur equipment. His plans for deploying stations on different bands, for the local necessities, and for outside contact in the event of disrupted wire service, would be known to local authorities and A.R.R.L. beforehand and subject to current revisions and improvements by discussion from time to time. In, and long before, actual emergency, our coordinator would be in touch with the responsible local officials and ready to pass along to responsible prepared amateur operators the jobs to be done, meeting any situation as it develops by any necessary modification of the advance plans. The communication program, of course, should be worked out to meet flood, earthquake, tornado or as local experience indicates the type of possible disaster. Whether or not such a local amateur coordinator or official is needed to represent and plan, will be studied closely as full facts on every phase of this emergency become available.

—F. E. H.

## Amateurs Provide Communication During Ice Storms

*Hannibal, Missouri:* With wire communication disrupted by a severe ice storm, the city of Hannibal on the morning of January 8th looked to amateur radio for outside contact. The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company requested communication with St. Louis and Kansas City. The Hannibal Amateur Radio Club station, W9KEM, made contact with W9KEF, St. Louis, at about 11:00 a.m. on 3.9-Mc. 'phone, and telephone company traffic was handled; the longest message contained 238 words. W9PYF (Hannibal) on 3.5-Mc. c.w. succeeded in raising W9EBX, East St. Louis. PYF and EBX were in contact continuously from 9:30 a.m. until 2:50 p.m., handling telephone company traffic. Late in the afternoon W9PYF arranged a schedule with W9EFC, St. Louis. These stations remained in contact until regular communication channels were again operating on January 15th. Most of the operating at W9EFC was done by W9CMF, who operated EFC's transmitter remotely-controlled from his home. In the midst of communications

with St. Louis, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad called for communication with Brookfield, Mo. It so happened that W9PYF had earlier been QSO W9SRE of Brookfield, and had him standing by, so contact between Hannibal and Brookfield was all set. Since W9SRE was unable to be on the air in the morning, W9ALJ, Marceline, Mo., stepped into the picture and handled the Brookfield traffic via telephone from his town. Communication with Brookfield was maintained until the 10th when the railroad got a line through. On the evening of the 11th, W9PYF went to bed sick, and traffic was handled through W9TCM, Hannibal, and W9SGP, Atlanta, Mo. Wire communication was finally established to St. Louis on the morning of the 15th. By that time W9PYF had put in 103 hours of operation and had handled 183 messages, 161 of which were for the telephone company. Average number of words per message: 40.



A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE STRICKEN AREAS

At the St. Louis end W9EFC put in 11 hours and W9CMF, operating W9EFC, put in 95 hours. W9FSZ was at the Hannibal Club transmitter W9KEM all through the day of the 8th, handling traffic for the telephone company and others. All the members of the club helped in every way possible. W9IRR operated at W9TZN on 1.75 Mc. in an effort to establish further communication to St. Louis and Kansas City. W9UJU brought his 1.75-Mc. 'phone station into action and also handled traffic. W9KEM established communication with W9WEE, Kansas City, and with W9LTY, Chillicothe, Mo., who acted as relay between K.C. and Hannibal.

W9EFZ, Hannibal, for three days used his station on 3.9-Mc. 'phone in contact with W9KEF, St. Louis, to handle Associated Press news for the local paper. A stenographer from the paper sat in at W9EFZ each day from 10:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. copying the news as sent from W9KEF. A messenger brought the various news items from the St. Louis agency to W9KEF's station. W9KEF transmitted a total of about 6500 words of press—all on 3.9-Mc. 'phone. He was on the air about 22 hours, one stretch of 5 hours without a break. W9EET, Sullivan, Mo., acted as relay between KEF and EFZ when difficulty was encountered in reception of EFZ's signals at KEF. W9TZN and W9FSZ assisted at W9EFZ.

Others who assisted in various ways in the establishment and/or maintenance of communication with Hannibal include W9LBA, W9FJV, and members of the Hannibal Club not previously mentioned: Branham Rendlen, president, W9GBC, W9FSB, W9RUU, Carroll Waddell, Alva Moore, Harold Benway, Lester Fuhrman and Andy Burtnett. W9OQI, Jefferson City, Mo., called on the Hannibal lads for information regarding highway and weather conditions, same being secured for him. W9LBM assisted W9OQI. We are grateful to W9PYF, W9EFC, W9EBX, W9KEF and Selwyn Pepper of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for information which made possible the above report of emergency communications.

*Jacksonville, Illinois:* On January 8th all landline communication with Jacksonville was cut off by heavy sleet

storms. W9YKA installed his transmitter and receiver at the local high school and with the help of W9TZL and W9TDK was able to contact W9BXR, Hillsboro, Ill., on the 3.5-Mc. band. Through W9BXR the Decatur Power Company was notified that W9YKA was in operation. The power company advised W9NFL (Decatur) of this and communication was established between YKA and NFL. Contact was maintained for about twelve hours; messages were handled relative to power line trouble for various power companies throughout the affected area. Other amateurs assisting: W9BEN, ex-W9BHH, W9AHH, W9WLM and W9YPW.

*Siloam Springs, Arkansas:* W5DRW handled emergency traffic for Western Union, KCS R.R. and others when heavy sleet and ice tore down all normal communications services out of Siloam Springs. All messages were given to W9BNT, where W5RED, a former Arkansas ham, was at the key.

*Oklahoma:* W5EGP, Muskogee, Okla., sends the following report: "Friday morning, January 8th, I contacted W5FX on 3.5 Mc. He asked me to help him try to make contact to Durant, which was completely isolated due to wires being down due to heavy ice. I went to 7 Mc. . . . heard W5QL (Okla. City) calling me . . . after making contact with him he informed me there was no telephone service between Oklahoma City and Muskogee and he had some important traffic for the Gas & Electric Co. in Muskogee. I stayed in contact with W5QL all day and by 5 P.M. had delivered five messages to the superintendent of the G. & E. Co. At 6:30 P.M. we shifted to 3.5 Mc. and remained in contact until 11 P.M. We maintained contact all day Saturday, the 9th, handling traffic between Muskogee and Oklahoma City and trying to raise a station in Ft. Smith, Arkansas—

Fort Smith was also without telephone service and the Gas & Electric Co. was anxious to establish contact. W5QL finally raised W5BRW (Ft. Smith) on 3.9-Mc. 'phone about 5 P.M. W5QL, W5EGP and W5BRW worked three-way, handling traffic between Ft. Smith, Muskogee and Oklahoma City. Later W5QL got W5EIH (Okla. City) on 3.9-Mc. 'phone to handle traffic with W5BRW.

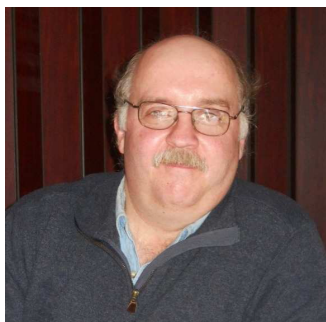
"About 6:30 P.M. the superintendent of the Gas & Electric Company called me on the phone and asked me if there was any way I could talk to the power plant with 'phone. He had the idea of taking a short-wave receiver to the power plant, which was without telephone service to Muskogee, and letting me send his instructions to the men at the plant as he 'phoned them to me. I got in touch with W5EZV and he took his receiver and a portable National Guard transmitter with a hand-cranked generator to the power plant. Contact established, the superintendent 'phoned instructions to me and I relayed them to W5EZV at the power plant. All through the night I stayed in contact with W5EZV and W5QL by radio, and with the super by phone. None of us got a wink of sleep.

"W5QL left the air about 10 A.M., Sunday morning, and W5EZV and I stayed on until about 1 P.M. W5EZV then came into town and went to bed, and I went to sleep for about half an hour. W5FOJ went to the power plant to operate in EZV's place. I remained in contact with him until 4 P.M. when most of the job was done. About 11 A.M., Monday, the O. G. & E. Co. asked me if I could establish communication with the power plant again. They sent a car to pick up W5EZV and take him to the power plant and we again made contact. Later contact was wanted with W5EHY. Sallisaw. I hooked W5FOJ on 3.5-Mc. c.w. and he shifted to 1.75-Mc. 'phone and contacted W5EHY. W5QL and I reestablished contact about 4 P.M., not signing off until 7:15. It was the first real emergency work in which Muskogee hams have had a chance to participate. W5QL handled traffic with W5BLJ, Sulphur, on the 8th and 9th."

*Columbia, Missouri:* Nine W. U. telegrams filed at Columbia, Mo., on January 8th for points west of that city were handled via East Orange, N. J., and New York City. A



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY DON VARY KDØHHN



Well, here we are almost at the end of the first month of 2014, and Mother Nature is still trying to decide if it's winter or not. Here I went ahead and cancelled the meeting this month because of the cold, and forecast for more snow, and just a few days later most of the snow was gone. Hopefully she'll have a little better control over things for the February dinner meeting. A reminder to everyone that the meeting will be at Golden Corral on Saturday, February 8, starting at 6:00 PM. We will be meeting in the front room, as in the past. I hope to see everyone there.

I've been doing some thinking, and I would welcome any input that any member has to offer. You are probably saying to yourself, "What input does he want?" I would like to know and hear any ideas or suggestions to try and recruit new members to the club, as well as new Amateurs to the hobby. As far as members go, I would even entertain ideas as to how to get previous members back to the club. Also any suggestions as to different speakers that we might invite to the meetings for presentations would be welcome. If you know of anyone who might be interested in getting their Amateur license, the Quincy club is sponsoring a class, starting the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month and running for the next 5 Saturdays at the Adams County Red Cross. Anyone interested, contact Danny Pease, NG9R, at 217-430-2046 or [dpease@adams.net](mailto:dpease@adams.net). Myself and Larry, WB2UFO, will be helping teach the course, and we hope to see some people from this side of the river attending the class.

I guess that's all for now. Hope everyone stays safe and warm and we'll be looking for you on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

Following is a copy of the Quincy Club Flyer for the Amateur Teaching Session:

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When The Electricity Is Out, The Phone Lines And Cell Phone Systems Are Overloaded, How Do You Call For Help?

The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club will be holding a 5 session course where you will learn everything you need to know to pass the test for your entry level FCC Amateur Radio License. Classes will be held each Saturday, beginning

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January 25 and concluding on February 22 when the FCC exam will be administered by the instructors. Training will include on-air demonstrations in the onsite club sponsored station. There is no age limit for licensing and instruction will be geared to students of all ages from junior high to senior citizen.

Classes will be held on Saturday, from 9 am to 12 noon in the Red Cross Building located at 3000 North 23rd Street in Quincy. While instruction is free, the purchase of the license study guide is strongly recommended. It will be available at discount from the instructor. There is an FCC testing fee of \$15.

If you are interested in attending or just want to learn more about the class, please contact

Danny Pease NG9R

217-430-2046

Or email: dpeace@adams.net

Sponsored by the WIARC

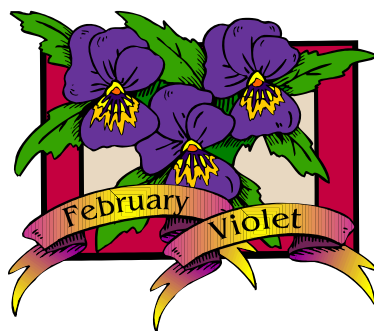
The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club

www.w9awe.org

73 Don

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES!



Happy Birthday!



“Now may the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

DX News and Notes, FEBRARY 2014

by Mike Nowack NA9Q

**DX Notes & News****DX NOTES**

3B8 - MAURITIUS. Jean-Paul, HB9ARY is QRV as 3B8/HB9ARY until February 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mostly SSB with some CW. QSL direct to NI5DX. DX NOTES....

This month it is all about the Amsterdam Island DXpedition. By the time you read this, the FT5ZM operation from Amsterdam Island will be well along with a planned closing date of around February 9. I hope everyone was able or will be able to work them at least one time and to even fill in some needed band and mode holes. Early observations based upon the first day of on air operations (Sunday the 26th) indicate this group has done their homework and have effective stations assembled and antennas set up and have some good operators manning the microphones and keys. Signal levels on that day were much greater than I had even hoped for given the fact that Amsterdam is very near the antipode from Midwest America. Meaning of course, you cannot get any further away from here without leaving this planet. Listening to them on 20M CW on the first day, they were putting a true S9 signal into the shack at this location. My lone previous Amsterdam confirmation was on 20M Phone and so I was happy to add a 20M CW and a 30M CW contact to my log on the first day courtesy of the FT5ZM group. Next stop, the low bands I hope.

Looking at the FT5ZM web page (<http://www.amsterdamdx.org/>) points out a stark reality facing these high profile DXpedition groups. It is very expensive to get to and from these rare places and to provide and transport the equipment and supplies needed to keep the group in groceries, fuel and fresh water for the duration of the stay. This Amsterdam group will expend nearly a half a million US dollars by the time it is all said and done. By the accounting on their web page they have accrued donations of about \$335,000 and still need over \$115,000 to fill out the kitty. If you appreciate the

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opportunity to log and confirm this rare entity you might want to consider a donation to help fill in this funding gap.

DX NEWS.....

8Q - MALDIVES. Bjorn, SM0MDG plans to be QRV as 8Q7BM in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via M0URX.

EA8 - CANARY ISLANDS. Alex, RA1A will be QRV as EA8/RA1A in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

FT/Z - AMSTERDAM AND ST. PAUL ISLANDS. A large group of operators are QRV as FT5ZM for two weeks. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N2OO.

J7 - DOMINICA. John, AD8J will be QRV as J79JG from January 29 to February 7. A

5Z - TANZANIA. Sam, F6AML will be QRV as 5H1Z from IOTAs AF-032, AF-054, AF-074 and AF-087 from January 28 to February 18. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

ctivity will be holiday style using mostly CW in his spare time. QSL to home call.

T8 - PALAU. Masa, JN3MXT will be QRV as T88MX from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, from January 26 to 30. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

TY - BENIN. Wim, ON6DX plans to be QRV as TY1TT from January 26 to February 5. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

V6 - MICRONESIA. Sho, JA7HMZ is QRV as V63DX from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, until January 30. Activity is on all bands and modes. He will be active as V6A in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest as a Single Op/High Power entry. QSL both calls direct to home call.

VK - AUSTRALIA. Tino, VK3EGN will be QRV in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

XT - BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO is QRV as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until the end of February. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via M0OXO.

ZF - CAYMAN ISLANDS. Bruce, K0BJ and Phil, N0KE are QRV as ZF2BJ until February 1. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands, with an emphasis on 30, 17 and 12 meters, using CW and some SSB. This includes a Multi Op entry in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home calls.

As always, credit for much of the above information goes to the ARRL DX Bulletins, the Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin and the 425 DX News.

Happy New Year, 73 and good DX, Mike NA9Q

**FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK
BY LARRY LAUER WB2UFO**



Larry Lauer, WB2UFO

Hannibal ARC VE Test session

(From the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Manual)

The Volunteer Examiner (VE) Program: A Brief History

Since the early days of Amateur Radio, there have been several classes of license available to anyone who qualified. To qualify, applicants were required to pass examinations based on Morse code proficiency and knowledge of electronic theory, practice, regulations and safety as it pertained to Amateur Radio. Today, the Morse code requirement is gone, but the written examination remains for three classes of license. The three license levels – Technician, General and Amateur Extra classes -- carry on the tradition of the incentive of additional privileges for additional study and proficiency. It's a system that has withstood the test of time.

Prior to today's volunteer-based examination system, the FCC conducted the testing at its field offices around the country on specified schedules. FCC examiners also traveled to remote locations to provide exams periodically.

But, in the early 1980s, budget cuts took its toll on the FCC's examination services. FCC exam opportunities shrank, and finally were eliminated. The amateur community would conduct the testing itself, under a new Volunteer Examiner Program drafted by the ARRL with the FCC staff.

In late 1982, the Goldwater-Wirth Bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. This bill, known as Public Law 97-259, amended the Communications Act of 1934, permitting the FCC to accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of licensed radio amateurs to serve in preparing and administering examinations. It also gave birth to the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) were formed in early 1984 to oversee the work of their certified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and serve as a liaison between the VEs and the FCC.

The ARRL/VEC began coordinating exams in September 1984. With our first exam session held on September 2 at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in California, the ARRL/VEC was on its way. Since then, the ARRL/VEC has accredited more than 50,000 VEs, who have administered more than 1,250,000 exam elements at more than 90,000 test sessions!

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The ARRL is one of a handful of VEC organizations across the country, but it is by far the largest and most preeminent.

(From the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Manual)

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The Hannibal club was there at the beginning. By October of 1984 Cliff had organized a team of volunteer examiners and applied to the ARRL to begin testing. Testing has remained an important part of our clubs activities from that day on.

On January 8, 2014 the VE Team of the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club held a test session. The test team leader and liaison to the ARRL is Fred Miller KB0WIL. Assisting team members were Cliff Ahrens KOCA, and Larry Lauer WB2UFO.

Two Candidates were tested that evening, Steve Wideman, and Ryan Easley. Both were successful in their goals to pass the tests. Ryan's goal was the tech test which he passed and is now waiting for his Technician class ticket from the FCC. Steve decided to sit for and passed both the Technician and General Class tests. He has a general coverage receiver at home and has been listening to all the nets on the low bands and wants to be a part of that. After passing both phases of the test he was last seen discussing with Cliff the merits of the different rigs available in his price range. Look for him on the air very soon.

Congratulations to two new members of our ham community.

Ryan is now KDØYTG, and Steve is now KDØYTH.

See pictures below:



We all gather for the test. Introductions begin.



Steve hard at his task.



Ryan at his test paper.



Checking Ryan's results



Your VE team checking Steve's test paper



Upgrades are easy and fun. Will we see you at our next session?.....Larry, WB2UFO

Dear Troops, Thanks to you, our flag is proudly flying over this country!

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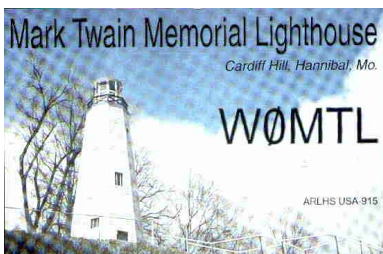
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W0MTL

<http://www.w0kem.com> OR <http://www.w0kem.org>

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